

**CROYDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING 25.02.2014**



Vice President Paul Elliot opened the meeting attended by 18 members at 19.45 hours and invited **MARCUS SHERWOOD-JENKINS** to present his display on **RUSSIA**.

Marcus chose to focus on **Russia in the First World War, 1914-1917**. He showed a variety of philatelic and non-philatelic material. His collection was made up of a number of letters from soldiers to their families including re-use of envelopes when there was a scarcity of paper when the supply lines for timber were disrupted from Finland to Russia. He also included a number of cards including two interesting items made out of birch bark which was used when there was a paper shortage. His display also had photographs including young boys (orphans) who served in the army alongside the soldiers, some with great distinction.

There were a number of stamps on view in blocks and pairs as well as errors and varieties of the one rouble stamp. Part of the display showed dumb cancels where the postmark was not used to avoid the Germans knowing the location of the origin of the mail. An interesting part of the display was war charity stamps, a means of raising funds for a whole variety of causes such as widows, military hospitals and purchase of gas mask. Of course any display of mail in a war area would not be complete without censorship mail and this too was part of the display.

A thoroughly interesting variety of material and a wealth of knowledge made the evening a very enjoyable one for those present. The meeting closed at 21.45 hours.

Graham Harker, Honorary Assistant Secretary  
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